

	The Netherlands					EU-25				
Demographic Trends	1960	1980	2004/5	2030	2050	1960	1980	2004/5	2030	2050
Population in Millions	11	14	16	18	17	378	426	457	469	450
Total Fertility Rate (number of children per women)	3,2	1,5	1,8	1,8	1,8	2,6	1,9	1,5	1,6	1,6
Life expectancy at birth for women in years	75	79	81	83	84	73	76	80	84	86
Life expectancy at birth for men in years	72	73	76	79	80	67	69	74	78	81
Net migration in the population in thousands			21	32	31			1.464	835	822
Mean age of women at childbirth			30					29		
Population share of persons under 25 in %	45	40	30	27	28	40	38	29	24	23
Population share of persons aged 25-64 in %	46	49	56	50	49	50	49	54	51	47
Population share of persons aged 60-79 in %	12	13	16	24	21	13	15	18	25	25
Population share of very old persons 80+ in %	1	2	3	6	8	1	2	4	7	11
Old age dependency ratio (15-64) in %	15	17	21	37	39	15	21	25	40	53
Gender Equality and Family situation			2004/5					2004/5		
Employment rate women/men in %			66/80					56/71		
Gender pay gap in %			19					15		
Share of part time work among women/men in %			75/23					33/7		
Childcare availability for children (0-3 / 3 - compulsory school age) in %			35/100					:/		
At-risk-of-poverty after social transfer in total/children in %			11/13					17/20		
Ageing and the Labour Market			2004/5					2004/5		
Employment rates for persons aged 55-64 women/men in %			35/57					34/52		
Employment rates for persons aged 60-64 in %			25					27		
Employment rates for persons aged 65-69 in %			10					8		
Average exit age from the labour market			61					61		
Inactive for health reasons in % of inactive (aged 50-64)			32					16		
Internet use total/people 65-74 in %			79/34					51/12		
Education, R&D and Productivity			2004/5					2004/5		
Early school leavers women/men in %			11/16					13/17		
Youth educational attainment levels women/men in %			79/71					80/74		
Total population having at least completed secondary edu. in %			72					69		
Lifelong learning			15,6/16,1					9,4/11		
R&D share in % GDP			1,8					1,9		
Productivity per hour relative to EU15 in %			117					100		
Migration and Integration			2004/5					2004/5		
Share of non nationals in the population in %			4					6		
Employment rate of nationals in %			74					65		
Employment rate of non EU-25 nationals in %			42					55		
Unemployment rate of nationals in %			4					9		
Unemployment rate of non EU-25 nationals in %			18					17		
Low education of nationals in %			37					35		
Low education non EU-25 nationals in %			48					49		
Sustainability of Public Finances and Social Protection			2004/5	2030	2050			2004/5	2040	2050
Government debt as % of GDP			52,9					63,4		
% of government revenue in GDP			43,8					43,7		
% of public expenditure on pensions in GDP			7,7	10,6	11,2			10,6	11,9	12,8
% of public expenditure on health care in GDP			6,1	7,1	7,4			6,4	7,4	8,0
% of public expenditure on long term care in GDP			0,5	0,8	1,1			0,9	1,1	1,5

Demographic challenges and ...

Fertility in the Netherlands is at a relatively high level and has recovered from a much lower level in the 1980s. Life expectancy is slightly below the EU average. Projections are based on the assumption that fertility will remain high and that life expectancy will grow slower than for the EU as a whole. These trends combined with significant immigration will result in a growing population and one of the lowest old-age dependency ratios in the EU by 2050.

... opportunities for tackling them

Female labour force participation is high, but the contribution of women to the economy could improve if women worked more hours and the gender pay gap was reduced. Better childcare provision could help in this respect. Employment could also grow through higher labour force participation of older workers and improved access of minorities and third country nationals to the labour market and education systems. Public debt is below the EU average. Public social protection expenditure is expected to rise faster than for the EU as a whole, albeit to a level that would remain below the EU average.